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LETTER DATED 5 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued over the period 16 to 31 July 1997 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with this country with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 16-31 July 1997

1. In the northern region 76 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following cities and towns: Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Amadiyah, Zakho, Aqrah, Mosul North, Badush, Ayn Sifni, Koysanjaq and Shaykhan.

2. In the southern region 584 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Amarah, Basrah, Maymunah, Chabaish, Artawi, Kut, Rifa'i, Hayy, Busayyah, Qal'at Sa..h, Bathah, Shinafiyah, Qurnah, Lasaf, Rumaythah, Jabal Sanam, Safwan, Hamzah, Makarr al-Na'am, Khidr and Habbariyah.

3. On 11 occasions United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated the Republic of Iraq's airspace in the southern region before leaving in the direction of Kuwait.

4. At 1100 hours on 16 July 1997 United States aircraft dropped heat flares on wheat and barley fields in the Dawblah area of Diyala Governorate, setting fire to two plantations owned by the farmers Raja Hasan Ali and Ali Abbas Khalaf.

5. At 1400 hours on 26 July 1997 United States aircraft dropped a heat flare that fell on the home of the citizen Subayh Jabbar in Hayy al-Husayn in Basrah Governorate.